



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

September 19, 2008

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TO CONSIDER THE CONTINUATION OF THE  
CALIFORNIA SEA URCHIN COMMISSION**

**TO THE CALIFORNIA SEA URCHIN DIVER OR HANDLER ADDRESSED:**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is calling a public hearing to consider continuation of the California Sea Urchin Commission. This hearing is called pursuant to Section 79140 of the Sea Urchin Commission law, which requires CDFA to conduct a public hearing every five years to determine whether the operation of the California Sea Urchin Commission should be continued.

The California Sea Urchin Commission, under the authority of the Commission law, conducts a program focused on fishery management (access to resource), industry coordination and communication, and industry promotion relating to California sea urchins. These activities are funded by mandatory assessments on sea urchin divers and handlers. The hearing will be held in three locations and is scheduled as follows:

DATE AND TIME	LOCATION
Friday, October 24, 2008 Beginning at 1:30 p.m. <b>Note: Between 2:30 and 3:30 testimony may be given in Japanese, interpretation services will be provided.</b>	Department of Fish and Game 4665 Lampson Avenue Los Alamitos, CA
Saturday, October 25, 2008 Beginning at 10:00 a.m.	Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Road Ventura, CA
Friday, October 31, 2008 Beginning at 9:00 a.m.	Salmon Trollers Marketing Assn. Bldg 19292 S. Harbor Drive Fort Bragg, CA

**HEARING PROCEDURE**

At the first hearing location, CDFA staff will present testimony regarding the procedure used to develop the official list of sea urchin divers and handlers used to mail this notice of public hearing. At all three hearing locations staff will receive testimony on the following:

1. The production, economic and marketing conditions affecting the California sea urchin industry and the effect the continuation of the Commission may have upon these conditions;

Whether the Commission:

- Is making progress towards attaining the objectives for which it was established,
- Completes projects consistent with available resources, and
- Furthers the interests of the residents of the state of California



## HEARING PREPARATION

At the hearing, those who favor the continuation of the Commission should offer testimony that supports the activities being carried out by the Commission. Witnesses should provide examples of how the Commission's activities have aided the industry to remain viable. Any evidence of benefits that have been derived during the term of the Commission may be offered.

Those against the continuation of the Commission should provide testimony and related evidence give examples of why they believe the Commission has not worked for the industry. Arguments should support the premise that the industry's interests would be better served without the Commission.

In preparing testimony, witnesses should direct their comments toward the following questions:

- What have been the accomplishments or deficiencies of the Commission over the past five years? Is the industry better off because of the Commission or has it not been cost effective? Is there a better way to advance the interests of sea urchin divers and handlers other than through the operation of this Commission? Have the activities of the Commission benefited the industry? If so, how? If not, why not?
- Is the Commission capable of addressing the problems of the industry? If not, why not? If so, why? Are changes necessary to allow the Commission to better serve the good of the industry? If so, please provide specific examples/details.
- Are the assessment monies being spent wisely, efficiently, and according to the authority granted to the Commission by the Commission law? How could the cost efficiency of the Commission's activities be improved?
- What are the problems and opportunities facing the California sea urchin industry in the next five years? How should the Commission operate to address these factors?

Written comments will be accepted if mailed to the CDFA Marketing Branch, Attention Glenn Yost, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 **postmarked not later than October 31, 2008.**

The hearing transcript and written comments will be considered by CDFA in determining if the California Sea Urchin Commission will be authorized to continue. If the testimony presented at the hearing generally supports the continuation of the Commission, CDFA may authorize it to operate for another five years. However, if CDFA finds from the hearing record that a substantial question exists as to whether the Commission is fulfilling its declared purposes, CDFA will conduct a vote of sea urchin divers and handlers to determine if the Commission should be continued.

All sea urchin divers and handlers, and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate in this hearing. If you have questions regarding this hearing, please call Vern Goehring, Manager of the California Sea Urchin Commission, at (916) 444-8194 or Glenn Yost of the Marketing Branch at (916) 341-6005.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief  
Marketing Branch